How is it possible that another year has passed? It is often in December that we take time to reflect. It’s easy to speed through our lives and fail to pause and remember our accomplishments.

In fact, over the past year, our supporters have enabled DEFHR to achieve more in the advancement of equine welfare, inspire others to join our mission, and spread compassion for horses. In my time at DEFHR, I’ve seen a lot of horses leave a neglectful situation and come to our farm for a new life. Although there are similarities in their stories, we wouldn’t be good rehabilitators if we didn’t recognize the uniqueness in each individual.

Here’s what I know: Every horse holds a secret, a history untold to us, pain and joy over their life that make up the horse that comes to us. And each one is able to take a leap of faith—whether that’s following someone onto a trailer, walking into a stall, or picking up a foot—in the end, it takes a leap of faith to trust that the people coming to their aid are worth taking a chance on.

When you give your support, through your time, donations or services, you make that chance possible, and I’m very grateful for you trusting us and being a part of this community. I am so humbled by you and your dedication to being a part of the change, and by the understanding that each of you has your own story and reasons to give.

I talk a lot about the fact that DEFHR supporters are investors in social change, and that investment is measured by impact. Well, I am pleased to report some very good news! Your investment paid off in a big way this year. In fact, we had a record year of successes.

- I’ll be the first to agree that 1 adoption is a success, and last year we set a record of placing 52 horses into homes. We are breaking that record this year by placing 78 horses.
- Because of our adoptions, we were able to take in a record 75 horses and ponies. These horses will no longer live a life of neglect and abuse.
- Because of our track record, we received the highest grant in DEFHR’s history—$250,000 to be used over the next two years to help find even more adoptive homes.
- We entered into more collaborative partnerships than ever before, allowing us to assist Animal Control as far away as Texas.
- We exceeded our previous numbers of people being educated; in fact, for the first time, we had to turn officers away from cruelty investigator training due to space limitations. We are working on this challenge, and with your help, I’m sure we will solve it soon.

With 2019 comes a time to celebrate, for it will mark our 30th anniversary. Getting back to taking a leap of faith... that’s actually what our founders Kathy Howe and Allan Schwartz did when they decided to make their entire lives about helping horses. They were not horse people; they were introduced to horses later in life by their youngest son, but were inspired by what they quickly saw needed changing in equine welfare.

Kathy and Allan’s story defines everything we do today. They were willing to learn what was necessary to achieve more. They

Cont’d on pg. 2
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A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting: Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Inc.  
PO Box 309, Lisbon, MD 21765  
(301) 854-5037 · (410) 442-1564  
www.defhr.org · info@defhr.org  

Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available on our website at: www.defhr.org/about/financial-statements/  

Information contained in Horse Talk is the opinion of the authors and may not reflect the opinion of DEFHR affiliates.  

DEFHR is a non-profit animal welfare organization established in 1989 to ensure quality care and treatment of horses through intervention, education and outreach. DEFHR exists primarily on donations from individuals and businesses. Donations may be made by check, money order, Visa, MasterCard or Discover. To make a credit card donation, call (301) 854-5037 or (410) 442-1564. Donations are tax deductible under IRS Tax Code 501(c)3.  

Brittany Ebbertt, Board of Directors Vice Chair, and Erin Clemm Ochoa, Chief Executive Director.

This year’s Jingle & Mingle Holiday Party took place at Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, MD. There were over 200 partiers, including DEFHR Board members (left) and staff (below). See page 13 for pictures of volunteers who received awards at the event.

We couldn’t do what we do without our dedicated staff, committed Board members, wonderful volunteers and all of our generous donors and supporters!
Facebook posting:  
Garrett County Animal Control  
November 13, 2018

“Garrett County Animal Control was called on to assist Garrett County Detectives on a child welfare investigation in the Oakland Area. The concern was a child in a home living with 30 to 50 cats. Upon our arrival, we discovered this was not the case. We did observe two horses in a fenced in area less than one acre. There was no pasture and the mud was nearly two feet deep in some places. The horses looked well fed, but something did not seem quite right. We were concerned for the horses standing in such deep mud, because of the potential for rot, infection, swelling, lameness, and many other issues that come with being stuck in these conditions.

“Animal Control was able to get in touch with the owner, who was very receptive, if not grateful for our concern and willingness to help. When we mentioned the issues that we observed, the owner stated, ‘I know, I know... I will fix it as soon as I can.’ The man was looking overwhelmed. We as animal control offered assistance, resources or even taking the horses off his hands and getting them to a rescue. The man took a deep breath, sighed and said that would be a great help. We recognized that this man was trying to carry the weight of his world on his shoulders.

“The horses happened to be WILD Mustangs that had little to no handling. They were a birthday gift many years ago, but the gift of the horses had become a chore and a financial burden. The horses were signed over to Animal Control and became our property. Now we had to act fast! We contacted maybe some of the best people willing to help.

“Heidi Quals, Caroline Evans, and Rachel Dudok all came to assist. Heidi who has a lifetime of horse knowledge, experience, also was educated and worked as a veterinary technician, arrived with her truck and 32 foot long trailer. Caroline, a nurse and also a lifetime worth of horse knowledge arrived, as did Rachel, who has an Equine Science degree, managed a Thoroughbred farm and grew up riding and showing horses with Caroline and Heidi.

“Next we contacted Days End Farm Horse Rescue. We sent them pictures and spoke about the conditions. They were quick to respond and say, ‘YES, We can take them’!

“We arrived to the location of the horses with our team of volunteers. With patience and persistence, we safely moved the horses from the muddy field to the trailer. Heidi drove her rig 380 miles, round trip, like a cross country trucker through the wind, snow, ice and rain down to Days End Farm Horse Rescue and back. [DEFHR Equine Programs Director] DeEtte Hillman met us with her professional staff, who were all hands on deck when these WILD Mustangs were off loaded. They formulated a plan and executed without incident. The horses were now separated, not happy, but quickly settled into their new home of dry ground, shelter and quality feed. DeEtte stated that she will keep us informed on the progress of these two horses.

“After this long journey, we as Animal Control felt a sense of accomplishment. As we look back over the course of events on this marathon day, we were happy how quickly we were able to put a team together of experienced, knowledgeable, equine experts that were willing to put themselves in potential danger for the good of the animals. We were happy to give relief to the owners of the horses. Finally, we are grateful for the facility and the work that the staff at Days End provide.”

NOTE: Now named Ian’s Iron Illusion (Ian) and Jasmine’s Jersey Jammer (Jasmine), these two horses are doing well at DEFHR!

And 7 More from Virginia Makes 75 Horses Rescued in 2018!

On December 5th, 43 starving horses and ponies were rescued from a hoarding situation in Culpeper, Virginia, all in a severe state of neglect. There was little food and no water on the property, and the owner voluntarily surrendered the animals to Culpeper County authorities. Animal Services worked to place the horses in several reputable rescues. DEFHR took six of them, bringing the number of horses our organization has taken in to 75.

Rib-Rab Reuben (Reuben for short) came from the Virginia farm. He was emaciated and had extremely severe dental neglect, acute fungal infections and parasitism. Thankfully, now that he is at DEFHR, he is receiving the care that he needs and deserves.
 (**Court Case Update**)

- **Baltimore County case from November 11, 2017.** Three horses seized due to emaciation. Two of the horses died in rehab and 1 survived (Ichabod’s Innocent I’s, adopted September 2018). The owner was found guilty on 4 counts of animal cruelty and sentenced to 360 days in jail, restitution, and 2.5 years of supervised probation.

- **Baltimore County case from June 11, 2018.** One horse seized due to neglect (Buckeye Billy). Owner pled guilty to 1 charge of aggravated animal cruelty and was sentenced to restitution and 6 months unsupervised probation.

- **Wicomico County case from March 17, 2018.** Owner has been charged with 64 counts of animal cruelty including: 16 felony counts of Aggravated Animal Cruelty, 16 misdemeanor counts of Animal Cruelty and 32 misdemeanor counts of Animal Cruelty: Failure to Provide. Trial has been set for March 26-27, 2019. DEFHR took in 12 horses from this county; several have found adoption homes.

- **Frederick County case from April 17, 2018.** Owner pled guilty to 8 counts of failure to provide adequate food, was ordered two years supervised probation, and required to receive mental health care for two years. Animal Control has access at all times to the owner’s property and must approve any/all additions of animals. She was also ordered to pay restitution for veterinary costs incurred on the date of relinquishment of the horses and to pay court fees. DEFHR took in 12 horses from this case; several have found adoption homes.

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**Renowned Forensic Vet Presents Classes for Vets and Equine Cruelty Investigators**

In October, DEFHR welcomed Melinda Merck, DVM, a highly regarded Forensic Veterinarian, to the farm to present continuing education classes for animal welfare professionals. The first day’s class, put on in partnership with the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS), offered vets and vet techs a presentation on “Reporting Suspected Abuse: A Roadmap for Complying with Maryland’s New Mandatory Reporting Law.” Day two was for equine cruelty investigators, with a presentation on “Crime Scene Analysis, Evidence Recognition and the Application of Forensics and Crime Scene Consideration.”

Dr. Merck is considered America’s top forensic veterinarian, frequently consulting on legal cases involving animals, including her assistance on the widely known dog-fighting case involving Michael Vick. She provides training for veterinary and law enforcement professionals nationwide on the use of veterinary medical knowledge in the investigation and prosecution of animal cruelty cases. Dr. Merck often testifies as a forensic veterinary expert for animal cruelty cases around the country.

Equine Programs Director DeEtte Hillman reports, “Many years back I had the privilege of hearing Dr. Merck speak at a conference in Illinois where I was awed by her knowledge, experiences, training and expertise in veterinary forensics. I was further inspired by her genuine caring, down-to-earth engagement and passion for helping law enforcement and veterinarians in their difficult work. I knew I wanted our officers in Maryland and surrounding states to have the same opportunity to learn from her, and today was that day!”

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**Homeschoolers**

This past fall, students participating in our Homeschool Program learned how to lead Nugget around and over a series of obstacles and then treated him to some snazzy braids (left photo). On December 8th, they took part in the Feed the Hungry Lisbon Parade, with Eddie’s Eldorado dressed up like a reindeer. DEFHR’s popular Homeschool Program is now in its 4th year.
Tuey is Chelsea Grabham’s name for Texas Twostep, the horse she adopted from DEFHR in 2011. Tuey had been rescued the year before with two other horses from Queen Anne’s County. To see her today, you wouldn’t believe it was the adult version of that same skinny, frail filly.

Chelsea had been seeking further involvement in the horse rescue industry for some time and found her way to DEFHR as an intern in the fall of 2009, bringing her love for and experience with horses.

Growing up with horses, she knew she would likely want to bring some more into her life, and it was through DEFHR that she met Tuey.

Asked if there was the famed “love at first sight moment” that often comes with an adoption, Chelsea amusingly said there was no such moment. “Tuey was a bit of a brat,” she recounted. She described her as difficult, stubborn and skittish, but she also saw something brilliant—a potential waiting to be uncovered.

Over the course of seven years since adopting Tuey, Chelsea worked without cease or tiring, training her, caring for her and giving her the attention she had always deserved. Thanks to her efforts, Tuey became the horse of a lifetime. “Now anyone can ride her. She comes when you call her.” Chelsea proudly shows photos of Tuey, dressed in pink with flowers behind her ears posing for a picture; Tuey serene in the water, then decked out with a floaty around her head. Every photo shows how much of a transformation Tuey has undergone, and how patient and peaceful this amazing horse is today.

Chelsea loved working with Days End, through her internship and through the adoption process. With the help of her “supportive, phenomenal family,” she adopted two more DEFHR horses this year: Lawrence (now Gunnar) and Finnegan. Both are younger and have tons of personality and potential. She hopes they will be able to change each other’s lives as much as she and Tuey did.

Chelsea and Tuey’s story represents perhaps what is so quintessential about adoption—one person’s ability to see the beauty and potential in a horse and the willingness to give all the love that horse deserves. Chelsea believes horses are as varied and complex as the people who adopt them.
Even on milder afternoons/evenings, the sun glaring down on DEFHR’s training arena can be blinding. The sand seems to hold the rays in a blazing bubble. Experiencing it gives insight into the level of dedication the trainers have who use this space to work with the rescue horses. None of the elements bother trainer Leigha Schrader, though. In the arena with “Vinni the Mini,” her focus is on the 2-year-old miniature horse nuzzling her for attention.

Volunteering with DEFHR since she was 12, Leigha realized early on that her calling lay in working with horses. In addition to becoming a rider on the DEFHR demo team, Leigha has made great strides as a professional horse trainer. An educational journey in itself, Leigha has studied under Scott Purdum, founder of Advantage Horsemanship (see article on page 10), and apprenticed under DEFHR head trainer, Sara Strauss, for several years. One of the core principals of her training is the need to build a trusting relationship with the animals. This means finding the best ways to communicate with each horse.

Training is very much a conversation between trainer and horse, no matter their size or background. With rescue cases, this most often means bridging the fear of humans or overcoming insecurities.

Leigha emphasizes that each horse is an individual. While understanding general horse psychology is important, it’s also good to know that horses respond to certain forms of instruction better than others. Physical touch and pressure are key communication points for horses, while oral vocalization works better for humans and dogs. Knowing this, when working with a horse, Leigha can apply a touch to emphasize a desired movement or input a correction.

Ways of training through touch/pressure are considered positive and negative reinforcement. Negative in this case doesn’t reflect punishment, but rather refers to the pressure of a hand or pressure on the lead rope to encourage a specific action; when the action is done, the pressure is released and the horse connects the lack of pressure to what is being asked. Positive reinforcement reflects a touch or word to indicate that the action was done correctly. Depending on the situation or horse, Leigha uses this technique to speak to the horse on their level, a conversation through touch.

Studying under Scott and Sara, in addition to working with several horses, has given Leigha many key strategies which she blends and uses in her own unique style. One of her first big challenges was Quest, the white pony rescued from neglect with dangerously overgrown hooves. Once rehabbed, his natural intelligence, coupled with Leigha’s training strategies, helped him grow into a successful competition horse, which he is today with his adopter.

Leigha’s latest project is much smaller. Vinni is a miniature horse, one of several ponies and miniature horses rescued months ago from a major neglect case in Frederick, Maryland. Once he was fully recovered, Leigha started working with him on groundwork to teach him basic manners. He was very timid when she started working with him, and did not want anything to do with humans, not uncommon with rescue horses.

Like Quest, Vinni is exceptionally bright, which gives Leigha leeway to try different training options. In addition to touch, she uses positive reinforcement through clicking sounds, similar to clicker training done with canines. Over the summer and fall, she worked with him to develop a repertoire of tricks without using a lead rope.

Always though, the need to communicate on the horse’s level is a key ingredient. Leigha taught Vinni to lie down a little differently than she has with other horses. Using positive reinforcement training, Vinni was able to understand small steps towards lying down using additional supplement, such as praise or treats. Vinni first learned to put his head down with the cue of the whip, then to paw the ground, which mimics a horse lying down in the field. Vinni understood the steps, but needed a final push to show him what Leigha was asking. Vinni was given a bath and then taken into the ring. Within seconds of asking, Vinni lay right down! Using the positive reinforcement allowed Vinni to connect lying down with the cue. Using this training method also allowed Vinni to think through the training.

Leigha never had to use force, which allows Vinni to enjoy his work.

Leigha reflected, “He’s really smart and very young, so he’s basically like a sponge soaking information in rapidly all the time.” Like a young child, Vinni’s curiosity leads him to explore...
his surroundings when not being the center of attention, and yet his focus and athleticism are quite clear. While small in stature, Vinni has great agility and can jump obstacles very well. His connection with Leigha is quite apparent as he dotes on her too.

Like any equine, minis love having a job and a purpose. DEFHR has had a large number of minis and ponies come in this year. As a fairly short trainer (Leigha is 5 feet tall), she gets the privilege of working with the ponies that are large enough to become riding horses.

“As for the miniature horses,” said Leigha, “they have just as much potential! Minis can make great companion horses or therapy ponies. They can learn tricks and at-liberty work. They can make great horses for kids and can even learn how to drive (pull a cart).”

While Leigha is always happy to see horses go to good homes, the fact that Vinni is DEFHR’s newest program horse (i.e., Equine Ambassador) brings a special joy because it means they can keep working together. She and Vinni can continue to raise awareness of equine abuse and neglect as they did this summer at county fairs where Vinni was a huge hit with kids of all ages.

Looking forward, Leigha is concentrating on further improving her craft and learning more training techniques. One of her goals is to champion the adoption of rescue horses to good homes, overcoming the uncertainty some people have about adopting rescue horses. Each successful rehabilitation opens new doors for each horse and gives them the chance to go to great homes.

Scouts Welcomed to DEFHR

Over 100 scouts participated in our Fall Scout Program, having a fun day at the farm while working and learning from our rescue horses.

Our spring 2019 Scout Day will be in April. Email info@defhr.org for details on signing your troop up. All scouts also get a brand new DEFHR badge to add to their uniforms!
Days End Farm Horse Rescue

DEFHR Equine Training Internship: Remy Nash Gains Insight into the Horse’s Unique Mind
by Fred Glueckstein

Remy Nash started riding just before she turned six at the Waredaca Pony Club Riding Center in Laytonsville, MD. She acquired her Regional Rating Level C2 at age 16, then began competing in the U.S. Eventing Association at the novice level with a leased horse named Beorn. Today, Remy leases a horse named Boo, and they compete for the University of Kentucky Eventing Team.

At the University of Kentucky, Remy is a current Equines Studies student taking classes such as equine farm management and industry. She has previously taken courses in equine handling and training. Remy already has an agricultural economics minor and is working on a business minor, with plans to go into sales for feed or equine-related products.

To further her experience with horses, Remy spent this past summer as a DEFHR Equine Training Intern, where she had the opportunity to support staff trainers working with abused and neglected horses seized by animal protection agencies.

As an intern, Remy worked with over 20 horses. She spent most of her time at DEFHR’s main facility, but also traveled to off-site clinics and events, even participating in a Baltimore County impound.

In accepting the internship, Remy said her goals “were to understand a horse’s mind more clearly, and the best ways to train a horse based on its unique mindset.” Remy’s experiences at DEFHR met her goals.

Remy explains: “I experienced every emotion while working at Days End: When new horses came in—sadness, anger and a drive to help those horses get better. Having a breakthrough training session with a difficult horse—pride, happiness and excitement to see this horse find its purpose. I learned something new every day, whether it be how to better hose down a horse, or how to better train a horse to be fearless. The experiences were so unforgettable and rewarding.”

Remy continued: “Each day was different. Some days I was on the road, other days I was in the ring. No day or horse was predictable. One of the biggest lessons I learned was that you must treat every day as its own. Horses have bad days too, and the beginning of each of my rides was spent assessing what the horse was feeling that day.

“If the horse felt stiff, I would focus on stretching. If the horse felt rushed and had a ton of energy, I would focus on exercises like transitions. The most productive rides were the ones where I listened to what the horse was telling me, and worked on what they were feeling.”

Buckeye Billy’s Rescue

Remy said that there was one notable experience that will always stand out in her mind. It occurred when she took part in the rescue and impoundment of Buckeye Billy in Baltimore in June. “I will never forget picking up Billy. I have never seen a horse in real life that looked like him. It was absolutely heart shattering,” recalled Remy.

Billy was 2 years old when he was given to a young girl by one of her teachers. He was 23 when he was impounded, and the family had owned him the whole time. Billy was boarded at a self-care barn where, in January 2018, someone called Baltimore County Animal Control about his condition. Officials investigated and left compliance orders with his owners to have him seen by a veterinarian and to change his feed plan.

In June 2018, another call came in to the Baltimore County Police, which resulted in the owners moving Billy from the boarding facility to their own back yard where he had only pool water to drink and no shelter. The police asked DEFHR to take the horse. Subsequently, the owners relinquished Billy. Not only was Billy emaciated, but he also suffered from significant dental and hoof neglect. His prior owners were eventually charged, pled guilty to cruelty to animals and were ordered to pay restitution. At the time of this writing, charges were pending against the owner of the boarding facility.

In a recent email, Remy wrote: “This internship was an amazing experience that I will never forget. It was challenging, but so rewarding. I have never felt more connected with horses in my life than how I do now. I will never see one the same ever again. The friends I made were wonderful and will be a great help to me one day if I want to further my career in training.

“Working with Sara and Leigha [DEFHR Trainers] was such an out of this world experience. This past summer was the most hard working time period in my life, but I would not trade it for
UPDATE: Billy was unable to chew any form of forage (hay, chopped hay, forage cubes, etc.). He required five grain meals and four soaked forage pellet meals per day, AND he was on grass 24/7. In spite of this, his rehabilitation was stalled and his condition was not improving. He was euthanized at the end of October because his prognosis was very poor.

Former Intern Madison Montgomery – Where Is She Now?
by Madison Montgomery

In the summer of 2016, I graduated from Tarpon Springs High School, Florida, with a Veterinary Assistant Certification. I had always known that I wanted to work with animals. I have also had a passion for horses, starting when I was young. I was that horse-crazy girl and everyone said it was just a phase. It never passed though. I took riding lessons and watched The Saddle Club, and started my ever growing collection of Breyer horses. In high school, I worked for a family friend who ran a riding school. She taught me a lot about English riding.

After graduating from high school, I moved to Iowa to live with my aunt and uncle to help with their farm. They run an alpaca ranch and have a bunch of other animals, including chickens, horses and goats. I got the experience of helping out on a farm and I got a job at the local Walmart.

I found out about Days End Farm Horse Rescue on the internet and saw that they had internships, so I applied. By November 2016 I had found out that I had gotten a place in their internship program. I was so excited because I could get hands-on experience and learn a lot.

During my internship in spring 2017, I learned so much more than I could have imagined. I fell in love with rehabilitating the horses along with the horses themselves, while learning about things from thrush and horse behavior, to giving vaccines and drawing blood. Because of my internship, I discovered a part of myself that I didn’t know—a passion for animal welfare. We interns attended one of the Equine Cruelty Investigator workshops that DEFHR hosts for animal control officers and other shelter workers to educate them on equine cases. After talking to some participants, I decided I wanted to become an animal control officer.

I moved to Washington County, Maryland, where there were more job opportunities in animal welfare. It is coming up to two years since my internship at Days End Farm and I have been working at the Humane Society of Washington County for over a year. When I started working at HSWC I was an animal caretaker and now I am an animal health assistant. My job is processing all the animals coming into the shelter, examining and evaluating their health, and making sure that every animal is up to date on their vaccines. I hope to become an animal control officer in a year or two, and am in school working towards an Animal Science degree. Days End Farm has changed my life for the better.
Scott Purdum, Advantage Horsemanship, Adopts Fourth Rescue Horse

Scott Purdum’s family has been involved with DEFHR for quite some time. “Before they became the organization they are today,” wrote Scott in an email, “they used to teach lessons which was where my parents first brought me to learn to ride at the age of 3! I also went to high school with your head trainer Sara.”

Those early lessons turned into a career with horses, which led to Advantage Horsemanship, Scott’s training program designed to bring horses and people together through simple-to-learn, easy-to-understand methods. Scott travels around the country offering clinics and has held some at Days End. His training methods, his history with DEFHR, and his passion for strengthening the bond between horses and humans make him a perfect partner for DEFHR.

Over the years, Scott has taken many DEFHR horses to his facility in Fredericksburg, Virginia, for training to better prepare them for adoption. All have since been adopted. Not only does he help train the rescue horses, but he also has adopted several himself. “The first horse we adopted was Rupert [in 2014],” said Scott. “He was a pony in your guardian [formerly save-our-seniors] program that we wanted for my children, and has since turned into a horse that every child loves. He taught my now nine-year-old to ride and is currently teaching my three-year-old the same thing!”

In total, Scott has adopted four horses, Rupert, Timber (2016), and Orbit and Nike (both in 2018).

While Scott believes adopting horses is “commendable,” he also cautions those looking to adopt to be sure to take the necessary steps to take care of the horse physically, and to maintain the horse’s level of training. “The worst thing that I see is someone with great intentions having to inevitably return a horse because it got too hard to handle. While these [rescue] horses might not have a positive story to tell of their history, it’s important that you create a positive story for their future!”

Getting Ready for Adoption—Adam’s Apple Joins Two Feisty Donkeys

Adam’s Apple first came to DEFHR in 2008. He was adopted once before, was returned in 2013, and has been waiting for his third-chance home ever since.

When a prospective adopter and owner of two donkeys from Delaware recently expressed interest in Adam, Adoption Relations Manager Raychel Harvey Jones had him put in with DEFHR’s equine ambassador donkeys, Harry and iPod. He’s not one of their usual herd, but she wanted to see how he would get along with donkeys before the adopter made the three-hour trip from Delaware.

Adam, Harry and iPod chilled out together for several days, and it went so well that Raychel was able to take some photos to send the adopter. Seeing Adam with the donkeys convinced the adopter to make the trip. She fell in love and took him home.

A couple weeks later, the adopter reported, “Just wanted to let you know this guy is now Awesome Adam. He is really doing well. Yesterday and today the four of them were lying down sleeping in the sun. Coors has NEVER done that! Adam and Coors have been eating off the same pile of hay outside. Another thing Coors would never do. Adam has some kind of mega calming influence on this group. The donkeys love him. I don’t know how this worked out the way it did but we are really lucky!! Only negative thing I can say is he makes a mess out of his stall. But the good outweighs that. So not an issue. He is really a sweet horse.”

Adam’s Apple gets acquainted with DEFHR’s Harry and iPod. Would he get along with donkeys? The answer was a resounding “yes”!
This summer, DEFHR was given an opportunity to support an animal welfare organization doing fantastic work while also helping more horses in transition. After having hundreds of horses come into their program, of all different breeds and ages, the SPCA of Texas reached out to us for help in training and re-homing six of them. The horses had an uneventful trip north, settled in nicely and are now in training at DEFHR’s facility. King Kalvin was part of the opening ceremony for Fall Fest and carried the flag with pride.

Cordelia’s Charmed Casino is a sweet, kind, talented mare who arrived this fall through our partnership with Maryland Equine Transition Service (METS), a statewide equine safety net initiative of the Maryland Horse Council that helps owners identify and select the best transition options for their horses.

We are proud to offer our program services for horses like Kalvin and Casino so that they can find their perfect next homes.

Helping Transition Horses from Partner Organizations

Unity, our little 2-year-old Chincoteague filly, was adopted in early September. She is a gorgeous filly who underwent an incredible transformation in less than three months at DEFHR. Unity was a part of a 12-horse impound from Frederick County, MD. She arrived in critical condition and had a very guarded prognosis. Every time she lay down to rest she was unable to stand again on her own.

Staff, interns and volunteers were determined to help this little filly survive and lifted her to her feet day and night, whenever she required it for four long weeks. Their dedication, coupled with Unity’s determination, has resulted in this once weak, emaciated filly making a full recovery. It makes all the nights of no sleep and weeks of round-the-clock night checks worth it when we see ponies like Unity board the trailer, confident, happy and healthy, and go off with their adopters, ready for the next leg of their journey. Congratulations to all!

Unity has been Adopted—1 of 78 Adoptions This Year!

and Quizno, too!

Quizno, one of the rescued Chincoteague ponies, gets ready to go home with his new adoptive family.

About 300 children participated in his summer’s Legacy camp, with some attending multiple weeks.

Legacy 2018

Cordelia’s Charmed Casino

King Kalvin

Unity, our little 2-year-old Chincoteague filly, was adopted in early September. She is a gorgeous filly who underwent an incredible transformation in less than three months at DEFHR. Unity was a part of a 12-horse impound from Frederick County, MD. She arrived in critical condition and had a very guarded prognosis. Every time she lay down to rest she was unable to stand again on her own.
Three Generations Volunteer and Learn Together

Ann Rodgers first learned about Days End at work where her office offers employees the opportunity to give to a charity. It was 2015 and DEFHR was her charity of choice. Soon after that, she attended a horse parade where DEFHR had a booth setup and decided to see the organization in action.

In July 2015 Ann attended volunteer orientation and has been volunteering ever since. Said Ann, “I immediately fell in love and told my daughter, Marie, and granddaughter, Kayla, they should come to the upcoming Fall Fest to see if it’s something they would enjoy. By November they had both completed orientation and become volunteers.

None of the Rodgers had prior experience with horses. All three describe their volunteer experience as “AMAZING!” Other than the new friendships gained, they are constantly learning through DEFHR’s monthly volunteer “Scoop” classes and other in-depth, extended classes offered to the public. “We have all learned so much,” said Ann. “We all agree that the most important thing learned is the need to take proper care of horses’ teeth, hoofs and nutrition.”

What did they find surprising? “How gentle and loving a large animal can be, even after being neglected or abused, with proper handling and training,” reported Ann.

Ann’s favorite time is working with the quarantine horses [all new arrivals need to be in quarantine for a specified amount of time]. Marie and Kayla love preparing night feed for the horses. “We all enjoy seeing the distinct personalities each horse has, the camaraderie with the staff and other volunteers, and most importantly, showing neglected horses that not all humans are neglectful.”

Ann encourages others to volunteer. “There is an abundant variety of chores, from laundry to hands-on grooming, for all ages and experience levels.”

Volunteering Paves the Way for Owning a Horse

Mary Morell with Dream

My name is Mary, and I have loved horses since my first pony-ride when I was 4 years old. I am 12 years old now and taking riding lessons. I want to have a horse some day and that’s why my dad and I volunteer at Days End Farm Horse Rescue. We both have been volunteering for a year now, usually on Saturday mornings.

At DEFHR I learn how to care for horses, how to groom them and what to look for in horse diseases. I also learn about horse behavior and how to handle them. My dad says I must learn about all of these things before I can have my own horse. (My dad thinks he’s going to have to learn too, so that’s one reason he volunteers with me.)

My favorite part of the day is when we groom the horses in the morning. And my favorite horse to groom now is Dream because she loves the attention and is funny when you try to pick her hooves. Before Dream, I used to love to groom Ainsley. She was the first horse I ever groomed and I was afraid of her at first because we tried to groom her in a stall, and she didn’t like stalls. The next time we groomed her it was outside and she was much easier. She was adopted, and I miss her, but the day she found a home was the happiest day I’ve had at DEFHR!

My goal for all of this volunteering is to one day have my own horse to care for and to love.
Volunteer Opportunities for Everyone!

Many corporations value community service days because they’re a great way for a company to give back to the community while building team spirit among employees, providing a benefit employees appreciate and building corporate pride... while having fun!

Liberty Mutual Insurance sent two groups of employees on its service day. Instead of going to the office, they spent the day working together at the farm.

Volunteers helped wo-man the booth at Paws for the Cause at the South Mountain Creamery. (Linda Chrisler and others)

Novice and expert horse people alike can learn from free continuing education classes offered throughout the year to our volunteers. This one on Horse Psychology was facilitated by Equine Programs Director DeEtte Hillman.

Holiday Party Awards Recognize Volunteers for Their Service

“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.”

Michael Ziolkowski  
Bonnie Douglas  
Ann Rodgers with Carrie Koehnlein

Alden, Volunteer Coordinator

At this year’s Jingle & Mingle Holiday Party on December 8th, DEFHR recognized several volunteers who contributed hundreds of hours of service during 2018: Michael Ziolkowski: Youth Volunteer award (977 hours); Ann Rodgers: Adult Volunteer Award (504 hours); and Bonnie Douglas: Ron Dorman Award (for going above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of DEFHR horses, 584 hours).
2018

It was a beautiful fall day for fun, friend- and fund

COSTUME WINNERS!
WE GRATTEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING GRANTERS

- Animal Care Field of Interest Fund/Community Foundation of Frederick County
- ASPCA
- Brennan Equine Welfare Fund/Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- EQUUS Foundation
- Farvue Foundation
- HSUS Summerlee Foundation/Annie Lee Roberts Emergency Animal Rescue Service
- Mars Foundation
- Paul L. Stine Sr. Fund/Community Foundation of Frederick County
- Petfinder Foundation
- Prince Charitable Trusts
- Unwanted Horse Veterinary Relief Campaign
- WaterShed Animal Fund

NEWS
Around the Farm
(as of December 25, 2018)

New Arrivals:
75 horses rescued during 2018!!!

Adopted
78 horses adopted during 2018!!!

Returned:
7 horses

RIP:
Chincoteague Cricket, Rizza, Midnight Moon, Ellie’s Equine Embrace, Chocolate Covered Cherry, Maura, Zippo, Buckeye Billy, August Amazing Adventure, Iman Image, Beatrice, Groovy Glory, Remington

Don't walk behind me.
I may not lead.
Don't walk in front of me.
I may not follow.
Just walk beside me and be my friend.
— Albert Camus

WISH LIST

For the Horses

- English saddle with changeable gullet (used, about $700), for training various-sized ponies, readying them for adoption.
- Dewormers (Ivermectin, Fenbendazole, Equimax)
- Triple Crown Senior feed (Southern States)
- Cocosoya oil
- Electrolytes
- Cosequin
- MSM powder and Probios powder
- Vet wrap
- Fly spray/fly spray concentrate
- 2-wheel wheelbarrows
- Gift cards for Southern States and Farmer’s Cooperative
- Salt blocks and bricks
- Hoof hardener and thrush buster
- 3cc and 6cc syringes
- Timothy/orchard grass 2nd cutting

Education

- Walkie talkies
- Stethoscopes
- New desktop computers
- Lamination sleeves
- Clipboards
- Dry-erase markers

For the Office

- Copy paper
- Forever stamps
- Paper clips
- Pens

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Together we are protecting horses and educating people!

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